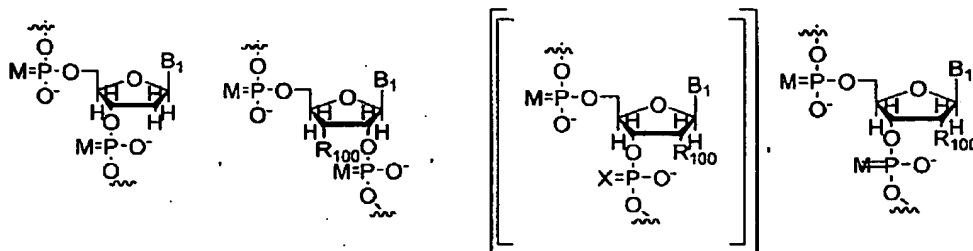


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Amendments to the Specification:

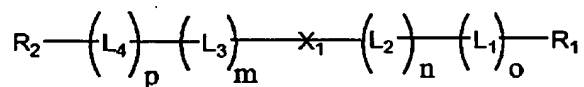
Please amend the last paragraph of page 11 of the specification as follows.

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An oligonucleotide prodrug of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

 R_1 and R_2 are independently H or a polymer residue; L_1 and L_4 are independently selected releasable linking moieties; L_2 and L_3 are independently selected bifunctional spacing groups; X_1 is a nucleotide or an oligonucleotide residue; m , n , o and p are independently zero or a positive integer, provided that either $(o + n)$ or $(p + m) \geq 2$; andwherein L_3 is selected from the group consisting of: